

OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

Horace Greeley.

The appearance of a new Life of Horace Greeley recalls to the public mind that valiant, but tragic, career which closed under a cloud of despair in 1872. Greeley had been nominated for the Presidency by reform Republicans and also by the Democrats; the notorious corruption of Grant's administration had called for correction. The great New York editor was judged to be the right man to defeat Grant, one who could command a great following among Republicans and perhaps, a greater among the Democrats who remembered his efforts in procuring the release of Jefferson Davis from prison, or, his opposition to much that Lincoln had done during the war. But when the returns came in, it was seen that the military services of the President outshone all the civic and personal virtues of Greeley. Grant was elected by an overwhelming majority.

Greeley, already overcome with grief because of the death of his wife, just before the election, was abused and maligned unmercifully by the triumphant Republicans; even his own fellow-workers, on his paper, the New York Tribune, joined his enemies; he could not bear up under the disappointments which had come thick upon him, and yielded up his life three weeks after election day.

Horace Greeley was born in 1811 on a fifty-acre farm in New Hampshire; his father was all his life in debt, a bad manager who labored hard with his own hands from early morn till late at night striving to pay his debts; but they were never paid and the farm was sold and the poor father forced to flee the State to escape imprisonment. Young Horace saw, with heavy heart, the wreck of the home of his boyhood; but he joined the father in the new State, Vermont, where they contracted at seven dollars an acre to clear fifty acres of heavy forest land. The land was cleared, but the owner died and the laborers, hard pressed as they were, did not receive their pay. By this time the boy was fifteen years old, and beginning to seek a calling for himself. So when the father decided to move again Horace engaged himself as a country printer's apprentice, hoping in that way the better to help his struggling parents; he was to work six months for his board, after which he was to receive about six dollars a month "if he suited."

Was ever a great and useful career begun under such harsh conditions? Rather was there ever a great soul which did not pass through some similar ordeal? The life of the man which grew out of that boy is an honor to this country of ours. It has been a stimulation to thousands who have struggled through equally trying difficulties to useful careers.

In 1830 young Greeley arrived in New York City with only a small sum of money and only one suit of clothes. After three days of earnest search for work, his "gawky," almost ignorant, appearance having defeat-

ed many of his applications, he was given a task which four others had given up in despair. Greeley was not of that class which shuns a rough piece of work. While he was at work the owner of the printing house came in and, eyeing the young type-setter sharply, told the foreman to "pay off that fellow and let him go," but the foreman soon found out that there was "something in Greeley," and let him go on to other work when his first task was completed. This was the beginning of a series of triumphs which made Greeley known throughout the city and State of New York within ten years.

In 1842, in the face of rivalry and actual opposition, Greeley had the courage to begin the publication of the New York Tribune on a capital of \$2,000. At the end of the first week the income of the enterprise was \$90 and the expenditure about \$500; but the undertaking was not given up. Within one year's time the Tribune had made a place for itself; all the great papers of the town combined against it and tried to prevent newsdealers from selling it; they intrigued with the postmaster of New York to get Greeley's mailing list and sought in that way to injure the rising editor. But Greeley continued to prosper. In two years the Tribune was the most widely read paper in the United States and its editor was looked upon as a veritable tower of strength for whatever was good, honest and patriotic.

Space forbids a further review of this wonderful life. The reader has seen how it went out in a sad eclipse; but not until after many a triumph had been won. Greeley's awkward form and homely, but benevolent, face became familiar to Americans in every part of the country. He was enthusiastically received everywhere, very much to the chagrin many a time of aspiring politicians. And when he at last laid down his armor, friend and foe united to do him honor. Fifty thousand people viewed his remains in one day as they lay in state in the old New York city hall, and President Grant, his triumphant rival, followed him to the tomb.

The simple record of such a life is calculated to do more good, if put into the hands of young men and boys, than many months of routine teaching of the ordinary sort. There are hundreds and thousands of boys in North Carolina today, struggling against great odds, who would be helped immeasurably if some one would give them this simple Life of Greeley, published by the Appletons, of New York. Such a life in the concrete is so helpful to the truly ambitious, to him who sometimes feels that there is no use to fight forever against adverse circumstances. Such a life as Greeley's makes history a vital subject in the training of the young, in the building of character. —Dr. W. E. Dodd, in Biblical Recorder.

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How a Snake Moves.

Now any one who has looked at the skeleton of a snake—and it is really a very beautiful object—will have been struck by the great number of ribs, which may be as many as ten hundred and fifty pairs. In these lies the secret of the ability of the serpent to do some of these wonderful things. The lower end of each rib is connected with one of the broad scales that run along the under side of a snake, and when a rib is twisted slowly backward, it pushes on the scale, the edge of the scale catches on the ground or whatever object his snakeship may be resting on, and the body of the snake is pushed just a little bit forward. Of course, each rib moves the body but a mere trifle; but where the ribs are so many, and they are moved one after another, the result is that the snake moves slowly but steadily ahead.—From Nature and Science, in April St. Nicholas.

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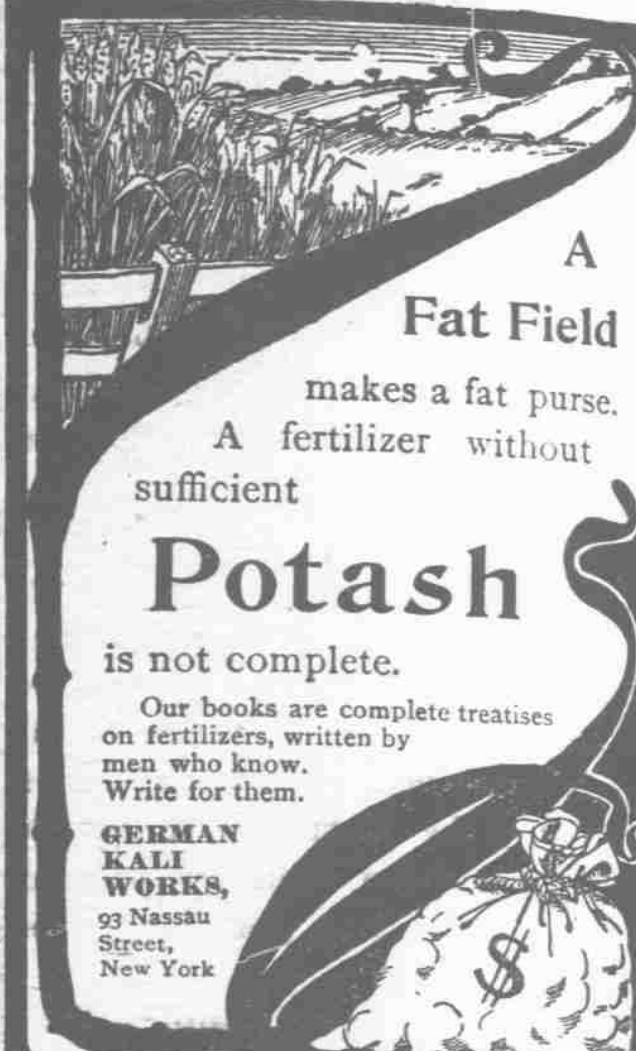
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